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National Apprentice Week 2016 - Sam's Story

Before joining National Grid, Sam Smith tried his hand at a variety of jobs ranging from Go Karting Marshal to community first responder. He had always been interested in engineering and signed up for an apprenticeship as he was keen to build a long-term career for himself.

17 Mar 2016

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At the age of 21 Sam enrolled on a National Grid Apprentice scheme in Substation Management and has recently completed his final year.

As well as earning while learning his trade, Sam feels he has learnt many valuable life skills along the way. Sam has also been involved in encouraging others to consider a career in engineering and as recently given an award by CEO Steve Holliday for his voluntary work in promoting the scheme and sharing his experiences.

After completing his apprenticeship, the 24-year-old started work as a substation craftsman in Raleigh - a job he finds enjoyable and rewarding. He said: "Apprenticeships are a great way of getting into a skilled career and I really enjoyed my apprenticeship at National Grid. I have learnt a lot over the last three years, become more confident and developed as a person and I am looking forward to having a successful career within the company, starting at the bottom and working the way to the top, becoming a manager and perhaps even being CEO one day!"

To find out more about our schemes click [here](#)

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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